

## The Big Ideas

### School-to-Home Connection

The people of the nineteenth century faced their most important social and political issues head on. The atmosphere that resulted may be viewed in different ways. Some people today might feel that with the end of slavery and the Civil War, the United States conquered its greatest evils. Others might suggest that the problems of yesterday were not completely solved. Instead, they may have evolved along with the country and its people. For example, racial discrimination and the policies supported by the different political parties are still controversial topics.

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Think about the unit's three Big Ideas: Resistance to Slavery, A Nation Divided, and A Poetic Revolution. Talk with one or two people at home who have opinions about how the issues related to each Big Idea have changed and how they have stayed the same. Compare and contrast their opinions along with your own. Use the following steps as a guide.

1. Write at least three questions you will ask each person. For example: Has the U.S. resolved the slavery issue? Are the people of the U.S. united? Do artists still experiment with new ways to represent the world around them? Don't forget to record your own answers to each.

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2. Take notes on their answers. First interview: \_\_\_\_\_

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Second interview: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. On the back of this sheet, write a short paragraph comparing their ideas with your own. Include specific details and examples that make each opinion unique.